

## A royal engagement!

Courtney Pityer

There is good news for the royal family in England. Prince William, son of Charles, Prince of Wales and the late Princess Diana, is getting married. He is marrying his longtime girlfriend Catherine "Kate" Middleton.

The couple became engaged in October while on a private vacation in Kenya. Prince William gave Kate the engagement ring that his father had given to his mother. The ring is an 18-carat white gold ring with a large oval sapphire and 14 round diamonds.

The engagement was announced officially on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It was also announced that they would be married on Friday, April 29, 2011, in London. The place of the wedding is going to take place at Westminster Abbey.

Westminster Abbey is known to be a historic place for their family. Queen Elizabeth II was married there in 1947. The place also holds special memories for William, mostly because the

Abbey was the site of his mother's funeral in 1997.

This will be a special wedding day for the couple because it takes place on a holiday in England. The holiday is a bank holiday. The other holiday is the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena.

"The wedding of Kate and William will be a happy and momentous occasion," said Prime Minister David Cameron.

Here are some interesting facts about the couple:

- They are fifteenth cousins through their ancestor Sir Thomas Fairfax.
- They met at the University of St. Andrews.
- Kate is older than William by five months and twelve days.
- They met in 2001 and started dating in 2003.
- They broke up for a short time in 2007.



## Elections bring change

Tyler Mawdsley

The 2010 elections have come and gone, and the American people have spoken...loudly. In gubernatorial, Senate, and House elections across the United States, Republicans took a lot of seats.

The U.S. House of Representatives is now controlled by the Republican party with an advantage of at least 239 members, well over the needed 218 majority. Also, former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D), was ousted by John Boehner (R).

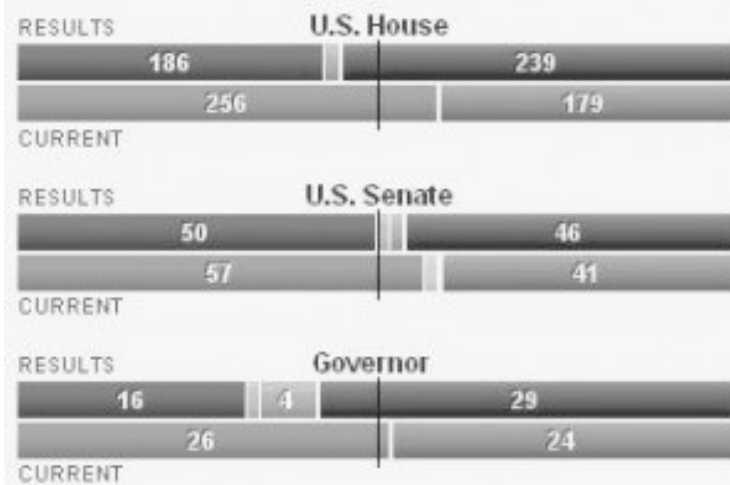
The Democrat party still maintains control of the Senate, with a margin of 53-46.

GOP members won gubernatorial seats in 29 states. In Iowa's own governor election, Terry Branstad (R) defeated ex-Governor Chet Culver (D) with a 53% of all votes over Culver's 43.3%.

Many reasons have been given for the change

of power this past election. Some people have said they don't think that issues like unemployment, now at 9.6% on a national scale, have been handled properly. In a recent poll survey, 67% of Americans who responded said they believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, while 28% believed the U.S. is headed in the right direction.

The November Kaiser Health Tracking Poll discovered earlier this month that 25% of the U.S. thinks that they and their families are better off from Obama's originally very popular national healthcare law. Mr. Connick said, "United States' politics is like a pendulum that swings between liberal and conservative. I think people believe that the current policies have become too liberal since the Bush administration. Over time the pendulum will swing back to the liberal side again."



## Marooned at sea

Taylor Prothman

The Carnival cruise ship *Splendor* was stranded at sea on November 8, 2010, 200 miles south of San Diego.

The reason for the ship to stop functioning was a fire in the engine room that knocked out the main generator.

The ship was loaded with 3,299 passengers and 1,167 crew members. The U.S. Coast Guard and the Navy were dropping off cold food and water onto the ship.

The ship arrived in port in San Diego on the

11<sup>th</sup> of November. 3,297 of the 3,299 walked off the ship unharmed; two of the passengers were medically assisted off the ship due to health reasons not relating to the ship.

The passengers quoted that "they were treated very well on the ship. The crew did a nice job at accommodating to everyone's needs and keeping everyone calm."

Everyone in the trip will also be refunded their tickets and given a free replacement trip.

## Hopeful for more to come

Matt Olson

On November 22, 2010, school was called off for Algona Community School District. The reason for the cancellation was due to weather that moved in late Monday morning.

The temperature was cold enough for snow, but instead came freezing drizzle, which caused the roadways to become very slick for people driving on them.

The decision to cancel school was a call by superintendent Marty Fonley. The safety of students driving to school and those riding the bus is the major decision for calling off school due to inclement weather.

Students are hopeful for many more snow days to come. The seniors are especially excited about snow days, as they already end the school year early.

## In memory of Vicki Bowman-Hall

Destiny Smith

Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, tragedy struck small town Algona, Iowa, when a young boy decided to rob the local Crossroads gas station at gunpoint.

Vicki Bowman-Hall was working that evening when Michael Swanson from St. Louis Park, Minnesota, entered the store. It is said that Crossroads was held up at about 9 p.m.

During the robbery, Vicki was approached by Swanson who was carrying a duffle bag and wearing a ski mask. Swanson demanded money and cigarettes. Vicki complied to his demands and then he shot her.

Swanson had what he wanted but it is said that he shot her because he was in fear of being identified later.

An hour later, Swanson entered the Humboldt Kum 'n Go, where

he repeated his actions.

No one quite understands why these actions were committed. What people do know is that Vicki Bowman-Hall was an amazing woman, working many different shifts a week to support her loving family. To many people, they believe there was no reason for her to be shot, when wearing a ski mask she would not have been able to identify the mysterious masked man.

Bowman-Hall's children are distraught and misunderstanding. How do you tell 11 children that a 17-year-old boy has murdered their mother? One daughter left a comment on kcci.com: "My mother had a rough upbringing with many struggles-she never deserved to die this way. I feel for the family of the other woman. I now have 10 brothers and sisters and a very distraught

## What was your favorite part of Thanksgiving?

Richie Baxter

Jeff Burtnett- "Food, family, FOOTBALL."

Grayson McElroy- "Eating myself into a coma."

Johnny Aboud- "Eating banana cream pie."

Hunter Norland- "Spending time with my family."

Macie Foster- "Playing *Black Ops*."

Ms. L- "Putting up my Christmas decorations."

Anne Buscher- "Not having school."

Celeste Smith- "Shopping!"

father and stepfather who are at a loss for what to do or how to pick up the very broken pieces of our lives. Forgiveness is between God and their killer, for whom I am angry, bitter, and confused. What did these women do?"

Not only is the family of Vicki upset, but also the whole community is outraged and upset. There is so much love in our small, tight-knit area. As upsetting as this is, the community is helping each other through this day by day. There have been flowers set at Crossroads in respect for the loss of a mother.

There are many food drives for the family. Donations are being taken at several banks. Algona High School held a bake sale Friday, November 19, 2010, and will be doing Penny Wars after Thanksgiving to support the family.

The loss is tragic but as a community we can support the Bowman-Hall family through all their struggles. To the community: every way you can help is appreciated. As a small community, we are a family. Let us now realize how close we are.